



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): William R. Zoltan et al.

Appl. No.: 10/042,034

Conf. No.: 4224

Filed: October 19, 2001

Title: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR ACCESSING INFORMATION IN A
REPLICATED DATABASE

Art Unit: 2172

Examiner: Alford W. Kindred

Docket No.: 115139-014

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JUN 15 2004

Technology Center 2100

Commissioner for Patents

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Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Sir:

The present remarks are in response to the office action entered in the above identified case and mailed on February 3, 2004. Claims 1-26 are pending in the application. All stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by published U.S. Patent Application Number U.S. 2002/0116371 to Dodds, et al. Applicants respectfully traverse.

For a claim to be anticipated under 35 U.S.C. §102, every element of the claim must be found in a single prior art reference. In the present case, Dodds et al. do not disclose each and every element of any of the pending claims.

Applicants turn first to independent claim 1. This claim calls for, among other things, executing a logical structure associated with a database table, to produce a logical view of the table. The logical view of the table contains at least a portion of the information from the database table, but does not include a plurality of identifiers which are a part of the table and which identify various parts of the table. This feature of the present invention is not disclosed by Dodds et al.

In the office action the Examiner points to Dodds et al. page 1, paragraph [0006] and page 2, paragraph [0021] as teaching "executing a logical structure associated with the table to produce a logical view of the table, the logical view containing at least a portion of the information from the table without identifiers." The cited paragraphs are reproduced in full below:

[0009] Thus, in accordance with the invention, a computer system and method for manipulating an XML document using a relational database is provided. The system comprises a converter that receives an XML document and generates a set relational database tables based on the hierarchical structure of XML a database for storing the relational database tables, and a searcher for querying the generated relational database table in the database to locate content originally in the XML document that is now stored in the relational database tables wherein the located content is returned to the user as an XML document or a portion of an XML document as desired by the user which can be another software module. The invention also includes the searcher that can convert queries specified on the XML document or document collections and convert them to simple SQL queries to retrieve the content desired by the user.

[0021] The computer 22 may further include one or more input devices 36, such as keyboard 38, a mouse 40, a joystick or the like, a display 42 such as a typical cathode ray tube, a flat panel display or the like and one or more output devices (not shown) such as a printer for producing printed output of the search results. The input and output devices permit a user of the computer to interact with the storage and retrieval system so that the user may, for example, enter a query using the input devices and view the results of the query on the display or print the query results.

As an initial matter, Applicants submit that paragraph [0021] is wholly irrelevant to the present invention. This paragraph teaches a computer, an input device, a display and an output device. A user interacts with a storage and retrieval system via the input and output devices. The user may enter queries using the input device and view the query results on the display or print them on the printer. Nothing in this paragraph even remotely relates to executing a logical structure associated with a database table to produce a logical view of the table, wherein the logical view contains a portion of the information from the table without containing the identifiers.

That leaves only paragraph [0009]. While this paragraph may have somewhat more relevance to the present invention than did paragraph 21, it nonetheless fails to teach the step of executing the logical structure as claimed. The first sentence in paragraph [0009] simply states that according to Dodds et al.'s invention a computer system and method for manipulating an XML document using a relational database is provided. The only relevance of this statement to claim 1 of the present application is that both relate in some manner to a database. Continuing, Dodds et al.'s system further comprises a converter that receives an XML document and generates a set of relational database tables based on the hierarchical structure of XML; a database for storing the database tables and a searcher for querying the relational database tables to locate content originally in the XML document. This is at least related to the present invention in that they both refer to data stored in a relational database, but there the similarities end. Perhaps the Examiner is equating the Dodds et al.'s "searcher" with the "logical structure" of claim 1. Applicants dispute such an interpretation, but even if it is accurate, the above described statement from paragraph [0009] still does not teach the plurality of identifiers identifying a portion of the information table, and creating a separate logical view containing a portion of the information from the relational database table with the identifiers stripped away. Dodds et al. paragraph [0009] goes on to say that content located as a result of a query is returned to the user as an XML document. Further, the searcher can convert queries specified on the XML document or group of XML documents and converted them to simple SQL queries. Applicants are at a loss as to how this relates to claim 1.

A simple reading of the two paragraphs cited by the Examiner as teaching the step of executing a logical structure of claim 1 clearly reveals that this element is not in fact disclosed by Dodds et al. Accordingly, the claim is not anticipated under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) and should be allowed.

Each of the remaining claims includes an element substantially similar to the step of executing a logical structure as recited in claim 1. These claims are therefore allowable over Dodds et al. for all of the same reasons.

Since all of the independent claims are allowable, over the art of record there is no need to argue further in favor of the dependent claims. However, Applicants would like to point out that many of the dependent claims were rejected based on paragraph [0068] of the Dodds et al. reference. However, paragraph [0068], the last paragraph in the specification before the claims,

is merely boiler plate remarks found in most patents that indicates that the scope of the invention is not limited to the particular embodiment described in the specification, and that changes to the described embodiment may be without departing from the spirit of the invention defined in the claims. This paragraph teaches nothing about Dodds et al.'s invention itself, and certainly does not teach any of the features described in the dependent claims of the present application. For this reason also, dependent claims 2-4 and 24-26 are allowable over Dodds et al.

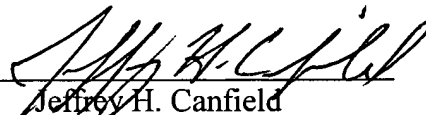
For these reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims as presently amended are all in condition for allowance. Applicant therefore requests that the Examiner allow the claims move the application to issue. However, if there are any remaining issues the Examiner is encouraged to call Applicants' attorney, Jeffrey H. Canfield at (312) 807-4233 in order to facilitate a speedy disposition of the present case.

If any additional fees are required in connection with this response they may be charged to deposit account no. 02-1818.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: June 3, 2004